



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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04/12/2012 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP RESERVOIR COMMITTEE

April 12, 2012 MEETING Town Hall Annex, Second Floor

Approved 5/10/12

In attendance: Lisa Fredman, Cathy Garnett, Rachel James, Elizabeth Karpati, Stephan Miller, David White. Facilitator: David White.

Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati.

Next meetings: 7:30 p.m. second Thursdays, May 10, June 14, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor.

- The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.
- Work at habitat garden: Saturday, April 28, 9-12, to mulch, plant, and put up a test piece of fencing. Voted to spend up to \$500 on plants and mulch, which Martine will get. Girl Scouts will do additional work on Sunday afternoon, April 29.
- Fencing should be 2 ft. tall; if higher, it would make the garden hard to see. The type of fencing can be researched from websites, and Cathy can get pictures of the kind used at Fresh Pond.
- Thefts: More plants have been stolen recently from the garden, even small ones like blue-bells. David will get signs asking the public's help in reporting anyone seen taking plants. Perhaps new shrubs should not be planted until the problem of thievery has been resolved.
- Signage: Signs from the Town are not there yet. When interpretive signs are added, they should include pictures of the insects that use each plant.
- Calendar plans: Lisa got an estimate of \$5.74 each for 200 copies from Swiftly. She will check with the Land Trust about handling financial arrangements, and with the Town Counsel to make sure everything is done legally. Lisa and Martine will contact businesses about support. The 2013 calendar will have photos; for future ones we could also solicit paintings (Cathy already has some she has done of the Res). It was suggested that we could organize a "painting day" in cooperation with the Arlington Center for the Arts. Draft layout should be done by June or early July.
- Ramp into the Res requires approval of the Con Com. David will get information from DPW about what is being planned.
- Water chestnuts: Rachel saw seeds floating in the water. David will check whether floaters are viable so that they need to be harvested.
- The "island" next to the parking lot which we tried to clean up last fall has Japanese knotweed coming up.
- Some small trees planted after the dam project appear to be dying, possibly from mower damage. We should weed around them to avoid the need for mowing so close.
- The path around the Res could use more wood chips. Future project.
- Work days for the rest of the summer should be set at the May meeting.

Items from the Vision 2020 Standing Committee meeting on April 18 ?:

(1) "Brainstorming" suggestions made when the thefts from the habitat garden were reported:

Highlight the thefts by putting a sign in the place of each stolen plant. Hide something in the rootball that sets off an alarm when moved. Motion detector activated lights. Anchor the plant with wire to a metal stake. Paint the stem with a bright color to make it conspicuous where the thief plants it.

(2) Task groups/committees should review the goals adopted for each group when Vision 2020 was established and consider how well they are following these goals. See below.

VISION 2020 GOALS ADOPTED MAY 3, 1993: 4. THE ENVIRONMENT

We value the physical beauty and natural habitats of our Town - parks, ponds and wetlands, dramatic vistas and tree-lined streets - as they contribute to the well-being of our community. Recognizing the fragility of our natural resources, we must ensure that Arlington's residential areas, commercial centers, and infrastructure are developed in harmony with environmental concerns. We will be known for our commitment to the preservation of Arlington's beauty, limited open space and resources, as well as our place in the regional and global community.